



York County, Jamestown 2007 Commemoration Announce Adoption Of Yorktown Snowflower As Official Tree of The Historic Triangle

Yorktown, Feb. 17 – In the springtime, it's covered with fragrant blooms. When fall arrives, its leaves turn a showy yellow. It's accustomed to the vagaries of Peninsula weather, able to withstand hurricane force winds, and tolerate moderate flooding.

In other words, the Yorktown Snowflower Tree is the perfect choice to serve as the official signature tree of the Historic Triangle to commemorate America's 400th anniversary in 2007.

York County, which began by recognizing *chionanthus virginicus* as its official commemoration tree last March, partnered with Jamestown 2007 to announce the Snowflower Tree's official Historic Triangle commemoration status Feb. 3. The Beautification Task Force, a subcommittee of the Jamestown 2007 Historic Triangle Community Activities Task Force, selected this tree in conjunction with a patriotic red, white and blue color theme for gardens to honor the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown.

The concept has since been adopted and expanded into America's Anniversary Garden effort, in which celebratory gardens are being planted throughout the state. The Task Force is planning an awards program for 2007 to identify and recognize individuals, businesses and institutions in the three jurisdictions that implement their own Anniversary Garden projects in honor of the commemoration.

"We believe that by planting Snowflower Trees throughout the Historic Triangle, we will leave a legacy for future generations that will extend well beyond the official commemoration," said Karen Jamison, chairman of the Historic Triangle Beautification Task Force. "In that spirit, we have created the slogan, 'Honor America's Past...Plant for America's Future.' Planting the signature tree will be like planting a piece of history."

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Yorktown Snowflower Tree Now Official Tree For Jamestown 2007 Commemoration

The native Virginia tree, also known as the Fringe Tree or Old Man's Beard, is available at numerous local nurseries. "The York County Jamestown 2007 Planning Committee is planning many programs, beautification projects and activities leading up to the big celebrations that will take place in 2007," said Committee Chairman Sandra Jones. "Our goal in identifying the Yorktown Snowflower Tree is to remind anyone who sees it being planted, or enjoys its flowers, that it represents the significant role historic Yorktown played in the evolution of our country as we know it today."

Virginia Cooperative Extension--York County and their Master Gardener Volunteers played a major role in helping the committee identify an appropriate tree to be planted throughout the County and in historic Yorktown Village.

"We are honored to have participated in this exciting commemorative effort, and are especially pleased that the Host Committee has chosen to make the Yorktown Snowflower Tree its official commemorative tree," Jones said.

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